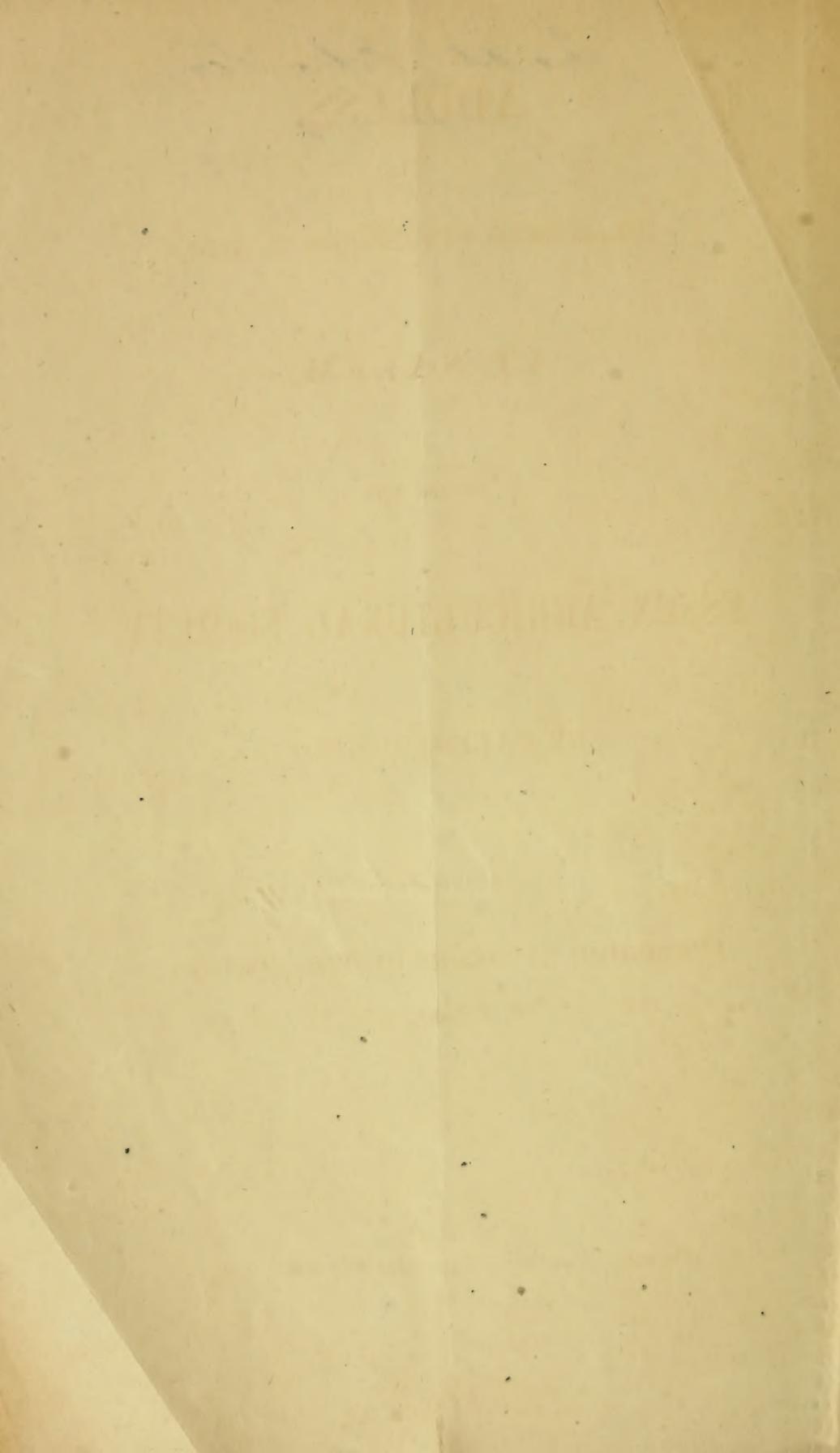


23
97

Joseph Lake Esq
With reports of
Cushing

C. Cushing



ADDRESS.

DELIVERED SEPTEMBER 26, 1850,

AT SALEM,

BEFORE THE

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

BY CALEB CUSHING.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

DECEMBER, 1850.

SALEM:

Printed at Office of Salem Gazette and Essex Co. Mercury.

1850.



210

5523

C97

ADIRISS

THE GREAT GARDEN

ADDRESS.

BY CALEB CUSHING.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the
Essex Agricultural Society:—*

It would be presumptuous on my part, to think of addressing you on matters of practical agriculture. I choose rather to invoke your indulgence for some appropriate reflections of another class.

Allow me, however, in the outset, whilst congratulating you on the happy reunion here of so many members of the Society, to give utterance to a common grief, in view of the absence of one, who, honored and esteemed by the community at large, was more especially dear to you, both as an associate and as a friend. I allude, of course, to your deceased Vice President, the Hon. Daniel P. King.

I have known Mr. King well as a public man, and in that respect can speak of him with the precision of personal observation. As a statesman, indeed, his memory now belongs not to our own Commonwealth only, but to the whole Union.

He owed to the accidents of birth and of circumstances but this,—that he was enabled to pass into the public service without going through that apprenticeship in active life, or training in the learned professions, which, though it sharpen the faculties, and enlarge the sphere of knowledge, yet has a tendency to leave the heart hardened in the conflict of human passions and interests, and the mind sophisticated by the habit of seeking for arguments to maintain an assumed opinion or side, in the stead of the unprejudiced exploration of the depths of supreme and eternal truth.

In this, he was favored by fortune : the rest was all his own :—

opportunities of education and mental formation faithfully improved,—scholarly accomplishments,—a graceful and ready eloquence,—courteous bearing,—candor of judgment,—a spirit manly and generous,—firmness of tenet, softened by moderation of temperament,—justness of principle,—philanthropy in sentiment and practice not in loud profession,—religion of the heart as well as of the head and of the outward life,—equableness of general worth,—constancy and uprightness in the performance of all his duties, whether to himself, his country, or his God.

Add to which, that, in him, conscientiousness of political conviction was free of that bigotry of party, which in the narrowness of its myopic perception looks on a difference of sentiment as a crime ; and his earnestness of execution in the line of his convictions was unaccompanied by that common form of party action, a calculated and self-interested intolerance.

Thus it was, that he rose to, and well discharged, public functions of high eminence, first in the domestic government of the Commonwealth, and afterwards for a series of years as one of her Representatives in the Congress of the United States. His premature death, in the vigor of his age and of his faculties, has cut short the career of a wise, good, and patriotic man, who, had he been longer spared to us, would have continued to win true glory in the honorable service of his country.

Of the private virtues of Mr. King as distinguished from those qualities which have marked his political life,—of the excellence of his character as a son, a husband, a father, a fellow-citizen,—it would be unbecoming for me to speak in the mere cold terms of public eulogy, here, in the midst of those, by whom his memory is cherished, and his death deplored, for considerations higher, and more sacred, than all of respect or of admiration, which gathers around the name of the departed statesman.

But Mr. King was a farmer, also, with a strong predilection for agricultural pursuits, showing by the successful management of his own ample estates, how science may be combined with practical skill ; and in that, his professional and official relation to you, justly earning the confidence and esteem of the Society.

Gentlemen, there is, in my estimation, no condition of private life more useful to the community, or more honorable to the individual, than the cultivation of the earth. I propose, in continuation, to develop this idea, and to exhibit the relations of land, its ownership, and its cultivation, to the material wealth of nations, to their moral and political welfare, and especially to the prosperity and happiness of these United States.

It is impossible that any American should call to mind the history of his country, and look abroad on its present condition, without feeling a sentiment of exultation in the remembrance of the one, and of pride in the contemplation of the other.

It may be, that something of exaggeration enters into the sentiment, it may be that the frequent expression of it has a sound of boastfulness to the foreign ear; yet, as Mr. Everett truly and well observes, the feeling and the manifestation of it have been most natural to us of this generation, who saw eminent men of the revolutionary struggle still lingering among us after the nation had already grown into surpassing greatness, thus prolonging our heroic age even into the present time.

This feeling is the more natural, inasmuch as we ourselves are the witnesses of a visible, yet marvellous national growth; of populous cities, filled with monuments of art, which have sprung up as it were by enchantment from the bare face of the wilderness, with the suddenness, but without the transiency, of one of the vast oriental encampments; of great states, with their thronging millions of inhabitants, appearing in wide lands, where the first furrow was ploughed in the virgin soil by the hands of our very fathers; nay, of an empire, broader than Macedonian king or Roman general ever ruled, rising out of the earth as if at the stamp of our feet.

We see that it is not an empire only, but a people, standing before us, colossal, glorious, sublime in its supernal majesty, with the aureola of divinity flashing from its brow. For that people has the highest of the patents of nobility to show for itself, as the Spaniard phrases it, namely, its works; it has taken its knightly spurs on the field; it has gained its blazon of arms in

the council-chamber ; it is the child of its own achievements. And in thus learning to become great, it has learned the harder lesson to be great ; for whilst other nations are struggling in vain to establish free institutions, wildly tossing their limbs in the throes and convulsions of mingled hope and fear, only to sink down again into the death-like torpor of despair, we, on the contrary, led forward by those great men among us, whose solid minds are alike unshaken, whether by the "vultus instantis tyranni" or by the "civium ardor prava jubentium," have, amidst difficulties unexampled, held on our course in conscious strength, proudly dashing behind us the troubled waters of discontent and disunion.

Well, therefore, in such a time as this, might republican France look with admiration at the spectacle of the regular working of the institutions of this country, when the conqueror of many a well-fought and hard-won field of battle bowed his head at last before the great conqueror, death, and the supreme power of the Union passed, in tranquillity and peace, to the hands of one, having indeed just titles to respect, but not of a name so identified with great events, as to make the heart throb and the blood run thrilling through the veins, like his predecessor, and not therefore equally sure of the spontaneous deference of his countrymen.

And well, therefore, may we say, to the American Union, in the exquisite words of one of the sons of Essex :—

Hope of the world ! May each omen of ill
 Fade in the light of thy destiny still !
 Time bring but increase and honor to thee,
 Land of the beautiful, land of the free !

Nevertheless, it may be right for us to inquire, how much of all these grand results, of this rapid growth in power, of this happy combination of liberty with order, and of the organic perfection of our political system, is due to men, their race, character, spirit, institutions, and how much to other causes above or beyond all human influences, and what those causes are.

Gentlemen, we hear much in these latter days of the Anglo-Saxons, as if it were their blood in us, which makes or explains the greatness of the United States.

Now, I am prepared to concede all its due influence to this the Teutonic element in our composition; but no more. I cannot shut my eyes to the action of the Celtic races, Spanish, French, and Irish, on the condition of America.

The characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon stock is individualism:—in the man, reliance on self, exclusive regard for self, personal independence, love of liberty, as it is indefinitely called among us, by which we mean, love of individual power; in the society, separate dwellings, collection into small political groups or communities, quick spread over the surface of a given country, occupation of land.

But in men, as in things, each specific quality excludes its opposite. Therefore, in the Anglo-Saxon, with self-reliance and self-regard, comes disregard of the rights and feelings of others, as illustrated in that habitual violation of contracts among us, which is more or less sanctioned by law and by what is called public sentiment.

Love of personal independence and individual power is, of itself, a complete dissolvent of society. Therefore, again, among the Anglo-Saxons, or wherever that element exists largely, the central power is weak, authority is diffused among the parts, government is carried on, or checked and controlled in its action, by voluntary associations, clubs, and political parties, which tyrannize in their own way.

In religion, protestantism takes the place of catholicity, that is, unity of church disappears, and there follows infinite subdivision into fragmentary sects, which every where profess, but nowhere tolerate, freedom of belief.

In respect to industrial pursuits, as each man is for himself, with freedom of labor there is also freedom of capital; and as the employed rejects or imperfectly admits the idea of obligation to the employer, so also the employer feels imperfectly the sense of obligation towards the employed; and while there is much talk of liberty, there is comparatively little thought of either equality or fraternity; and the dissolution of co-relation, thought it involve bankruptcies and adulteration of commodities in one class, with pauperism and depredations on property in the other, and frequent hostility between both, yet comes to be deemed the sum of human happiness.

His passion is to occupy land ; but in the indulgence of it he is carried away by individualism, and so he takes wherever he can, without punctilious regard for the rights of property in others ; and, as he is in temper unsocial and repellent towards other races, he exterminates or expels the previous occupants.

In a word, among Anglo-Saxons, the federative principle obtains ; the centrifugal force is stronger than the centripetal ; and the society perpetually tends towards anarchy and dissolution.

Accordingly, there was no such thing as permanent and well ordered general government among the Anglo-Saxons, until the Norman-French conquered England, and infused into the society a portion of the Celtic elements of cohesion by mutual relation or co-dependence, and centralization of political authority. Then, and not until then, did Britain become a power in Europe.

Now, is it because of the Anglo-Saxon blood and character of the primitive settlers of these United States, as manifested in their political tendencies and in their religion, that these United States became and have continued to be a great people ?

I reply, no : race and blood, with inherited instincts or habits belonging to them, determined the quality, not the fact, of greatness. The proof of which is, that the Spaniards, a Celtic race, with a genius the opposite of the Teutonic, with centralization of political ideas, co-dependence of social habits, and catholic unity of religion, yet in less time than the English, and with greater obstacles to overcome, established a more magnificent empire in America.

It required but one hundred years for the Spaniards to bind together the two continents in one powerful state, extending from ocean to ocean, and from Sante Fe in the North to Valdivia in the South, through seventy-five degrees of latitude ; to establish definite and equitable relations between the conquerors and the conquered ; to christianise the latter ; to create in all that vast region rich seaports of maritime commerce ; to build up refined and populous interior cities ; to organize productive industrial enterprises on the largest and most profitable scale ; to construct edifices and establishments of religion, government, military defence, education, and philanthropy,

such as to this day exist nowhere else in America. It needs only to compare what Spain did in America in the sixteenth century with what England did in the seventeenth, and to contrast the condition of Spanish America in the year 1600, with that of British America in the year 1700, to dispel the common delusion among us, which, from partial views and a pardonable national vanity, assumes our superior and peculiar intrinsic aptitude for colonization and for empire.

Whoever examines carefully the history and condition of the Western and Northwestern States, and sees how, at a time when the English still timidly clung to the Atlantic sea-coast, and, owing to their repellent qualities of race, were perpetually at war with the Indians, at that very time the French, on the other hand, had implanted their ideas, their authority, their language, and their religion, among the numerous and powerful tribes of the West, from Canada all around to Louisiana,—whoever, I say, considers this, will be inclined to think, that it was not any particular line of policy, nor any wide-reaching ideas, nor any intrinsic superiority of blood, on the part of the Colonies themselves, but the contingencies of a war in Europe, which decided the question, whether the predominant influences in North America should be English or French, Teutonic or Celtic.

We, in New-England, have been accustomed to take a still more contracted view of the question, and to over-estimate the influence exercised by the peculiar ideas of the Puritans in the colonization of America: unjust in this to the Hollanders of New-York, to the Huguenots of Carolina, to the Catholics of Maryland, to the Cavaliers of Virginia, and to the Irish in all parts of the United States. That religion was not the pivotal fact in the successful colonization of the United States may be plainly seen by the rapid growth, in our day, of the Australian Colonies, which, though unable to boast of any exemplary purity in religion or morality, have yet advanced faster in population and production than did the Anglo-American Colonies.

What, then, is the explanation of the rise, greatness, wealth, prosperity, freedom, and stability, of the United States? I have

no hesitation in saying, that, in my opinion, the main-spring of all this is land. The abundance of land has been the primary fact in the advancement of Spanish America, Portuguese America, French America, and British America, as it has in that of Australia.

I lay down the following series of propositions, in elucidation of the subject :—

1. The possession and utilization of land are the natural foundations of all society, because, without land, and its productions, life is difficult and precarious, if not impossible. In the position thus broadly stated are included, of course, the natural products, whether vegetable, animal, or mineral, of the air and water as well as the earth.

2. Manufacture, which is the modification of these products, and commerce, which is their distribution by exchange, are secondary in order of time and of necessity to the occupation of the earth, which alone furnishes dwelling-place and food, the prime exigencies of life, and which also furnishes the objects of manufacture and commerce.

3. In all societies, land is the chief conservative element of the society, of its institutions whatever they may be, and of its particular spirit and moral identity. Whether the government be aristocratical as in Great Britain, or democratical as in the United States, its distinctive quality is more particularly prominent in the agricultural interest.

Hence it is that the great empire of the East, whose robust identity of type has defied all the chances of time, proof alike against external violence and internal corruption for thousands of years,—I mean China,—has the unshaken basis of its greatness laid in agriculture, universally recognized by its sages and its statesmen as the noblest of their ancestral arts, the palladium of public stability, the inexhaustible source of national prosperity, second in estimation to the cultivation of the mind alone : in testimony of which it is, that the one great occasion of the year, on which the ruler of three hundred millions of men descends from that solitary elevation of his, which is half the throne of a sovereign and half the shrine of a demigod, to mingle in person with his people, is a solemn agricultural

pomp, when he himself guides the plough in the furrow as an example and a sign to the universe.

4. Whatever may be the political name of a government, it is monarchical in spirit and fact, if the land be held chiefly or in great part by the sovereign, as in Egypt, Russia, or India; it is aristocratic, if it be held in large estates by individuals, as in Great Britain or Hungary; it is democratic, if it be extensively distributed among the people for cultivation, as in France or the United States.

5. A political society will be stable, or otherwise, according to the predominance in its composition and control of those interests, which are directly associated with the earth and the natural productions of land or sea, or of those which consist only in the modification or distribution of natural productions.

Accordingly, countries, like Egypt, India, China, whose primary interest is agriculture, seem to possess indestructible vitality. Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, have, by successive waves of invasion, broken down the monuments of art in Egypt, but not her prosperity; Mongols and Manchus have expended their lust of plunder on the fertile soil of China in vain; Tartars and English have in like manner labored unsuccessfully to exhaust the wealth of India: for if Man be powerful to waste and destroy, Nature is yet more powerful to renovate and repair.

6. The tendency of agriculture is to distribute men over the country at large, of manufactures and commerce to accumulate them in great masses on given points. Of course, in the former will be found the traits of more simple habits, of a healthier state of the moral and physical man, and of less mobility of ideas and character: whilst in the latter will be more civilization of mind and body, but less vigor and individuality of stamp; more accomplishment in the fine arts, but less virtue; more new ideas, but less of reliable ones; emotions evanescent, though vivid; movement, change, instability.

7. If, in a political society, which is wholly or in chief part agricultural, the community be divided into two classes, one owners of the soil and the other mere laborers, whether that state of things result from conquest, as of England by the Nor-

mans, and of Ireland by the English, or from the introduction of laborers foreign or of another race, as in our Southern States and the West Indies,—then, one of two things happens: Either the owners and laborers are legally independent of each other, and associated only by the contract of hire, in which case pauperism is rife;—or the two classes are mutually co-dependent, in which case there is no pauperism, but, to compensate for this, the laborers are in the condition either of vassalage or servitude.

In all the known, or at least in all the existent, forms of political society, this is the terrible alternative, attending unequal distribution of property, namely, either serfdom, or pauperism. And the great question of the day in Europe is, whether there be any middle term;—whether it be possible so to reconstitute society, that the rights of capital and labor may be reconciled, and that, with the employer free to engage the employed or not as he pleases, and the employed free to engage with the employer or not as he pleases, still the employed shall at all times have work at a price adequate for his subsistence. That is a social problem not yet experimentally solved.

8. In proportion as productive land is abundant, and easy of acquisition by all the members of the community, will society be sound on the main point, that is, the absence either of serfdom, or of pauperism, and of the criminal classes created by the unequal distribution of limited national wealth. If, in that profusion of productive land, there be nothing to check the natural progress of population, or it be supplied by colonization, then will there be a rapid growth of the country in power. If the land be all taken up, if it be deficient in quantity, if manufacturing and commercial interests have overgrown the agricultural, then is the condition of the country abnormal; and the continuance of its prosperity is dependent on circumstances foreign to itself, and beyond its control; and the accidents of political change may at any moment produce its decline or downfall.

In saying this, let me not be understood to speak in disparagement of manufacture and commerce, those hand-maidens of agriculture; but only as attributing to each that which is,

in my estimation, its everlasting place in the great scheme of human affairs, and in the welfare of nations.

The higher comparative estimation, in which land has been held by some of the great states of ancient and modern times, such as Egypt, Lacedæmon, Rome, and feudal Europe, has not been, as many have erroneously supposed, a mere prejudice of class, but the expression of a sentiment or conviction in favor of what they deemed the material element of their greatness and the safeguard of their nationality. The old political communities, whose industry was more exclusively manufacturing or commercial, as Tyre, Carthage, Athens, Palmyra, each with its narrow territory and its massed civic population, shone for a brief season with unsurpassed and dazzling brilliancy in wealth, learning, and art, and then passed away like the blaze of a meteor, which leaves only the reflection of its transient lustre upon the page of history, and peradventure some half-buried monumental stones to mark its resting place on earth. Florence, Pisa, Genoa, Holland, are examples of more modern date. Britain is no exception to this great political law; for, though she be pre-eminent in manufacture and commerce, yet the ruling class there is rooted in the land; it repairs to the city in the pursuit of power and of pleasure, but its rich abodes, its household gods, the birth-place and nurture of its children, the graves of its progenitors and itself, are in the country; and when the earth of England shall have ceased to produce for her its corn, its coal, and its iron, and the landed interest be no longer potential in her government, then for her also it will need but the accident of a battle to decide her fate.

Gentlemen, applying these propositions to the main question, I say, these United States are, *as a whole*, and always have been, chiefly dependent for their wealth and power on the natural productions of the earth. It is the spontaneous products of our forests, our mines, and our seas, and the cultivated products of our soil, which have made, and continue to make, us what we are. Manufacture can but modify these, commerce only distribute or accumulate them, and exchange them for others, to gratify taste or promote convenience. Land is the footstool of our power; land is the throne of our empire.

Generation after generation may give themselves up to slaughter in civil or foreign war ; dynasty follow dynasty, each with new varieties of oppression or misrule ; the fratricidal rage of domestic factions rend the entrails of their common country ; temples, and basilica, and capitol, crumble to dust ; proud navies melt into the yeast of the sea ; and all that Art fitfully does to perpetuate itself, disappear like the phantasm of a troubled dream ; but Nature is everlasting ; and, above the wreck and uproar of our vain devices and childish tumults, the tutelary stars continue to sparkle upon us from their distant spheres ; the sun to pour out his vivifying rays of light and heat over the earth ; the elements to dissolve in grateful rain ; the majestic river to roll on his fertilizing waters unceasingly ; and the ungrudging soil to yield up the plenteousness of its harvest year after year to the hand of the husbandman.

He, the husbandman, is the servant of those divine elements of earth and air ; he is the minister of that gracious, that benign, that bounteous, that fostering, that nourishing, that renovating, that inexhaustible, that adorable Nature ; and as such, the stewardship of our nationality is in him.

God has in all times vouchsafed to our country ministers of religion, whose hearts and whose life were touched as with holy fire from his altar ; soldiers, of whom the very name sounds in the mind's ear as a trumpet-call to battle and victory ; statesmen, the glory of whose eloquence, whose wisdom, whose patriotism, will descend to future ages, obscuring in the effulgence of its light all Greek and Roman fame. God has made us of that Anglo-Saxon race, which Tacitus commemorates of old, as inclined to shun the crowded city, and to choose its abodes by the sparkling fountain, or along the green glades, or in the solemn depths of the forest ; whose passion is land ; whose individualism, whose genius of separation and self-action, whose rural tendencies, render it especially apt for that period in the career of a political community, when land is super-abundant with it, and when the uncultivated earth is to be reclaimed to the dominion of man. God has endowed us with courage, energy, activity, genius, invention, industry, love of knowledge, improvement, and virtue, at least equal to

those of the most favored members of the human family. God has blessed and protected us in our efforts to establish and maintain wise and good institutions of government, and has enabled us to defend them against all enemies, alike on the ocean and the land. But God in his great mercy has also given us a country, geographically speaking, without the singular features and situation of which, all the wisdom, virtue, and sacrifices of our fathers and ourselves would but have served, like those of Swedish Charles,

To point a moral, and adorn a tale ;

and without which the specific qualities of our parent-stock, their instincts of personal independence, severance of interests, diffusion of authority, repellence of race, exaggerated self-confidence of judgment, intolerance of any opinion, tastes or habits differing from their own, and their very avidity for land, would all have proved to be the elements of dissolution and destruction, rather than of wealth and power.

We of the United States possess a portion of the earth, in which all the natural sources of wealth, mineral or vegetable, abound ; which constitutes (approximately) the whole of the temperate zone of this Continent, and is therefore highly congenial to animal life ; which by the configuration of the sea-coast abounds in harbors ; which contains interior seas ; and whose superficies is so disposed, with numerous moderate elevations, with no conglomeration of lofty mountains, but with extensive gently inclined planes, that it contains a larger system of rivers, and a greater proportion of tillable lands, than any other country in the world, except possibly Russia and China.

Compare, for illustration, with the condition of the American Republic in this respect, the contrary state of things in the Mexican. Such is the configuration of the coast of Mexico that she has almost no good harbor on the Atlantic ocean. Vera Cruz is but a road-stead along the sea-beach, imperfectly sheltered by a reef of rocks. You cannot reach the interior of the country, and the seats of its natural resources and power, from either sea-coast, without ascending to a height of seven thousand feet in a line of one hundred miles, and the whole

surface of the earth is a confused mass of mountains. Of course, navigable rivers, canals, and railways, either to connect together the interior parts of the country, or to connect them with the sea, are impossible. Of course, also, the relative proportion of arable land is much less than it is in this country. Moreover, as the climate is dry, and the running streams few and small, therefore, of the land in general only those portions can be cultivated profitably, which are susceptible of irrigation. If God had cast the lot of our fathers in that part of America, not ours would be the mighty ships, which now bear our flag, and the fame of our greatness, and the rich productions of our soil, our fisheries, our work-shops, and our looms, to the uttermost bounds of the earth;—not ours, the floating palaces of the Hudson, the Delaware, the Ohio, and the Mississippi;—not ours the wonders of mechanic art in the use of the steam engine;—not ours, the iron bands of so many railroads, which seem as if intended to bind together indissolubly the East and the West, the North and the South;—not ours the great forests and vast prairies of the West, which invite and satisfy the expansive energies of our race, which draw off the superfluity of our population, which constitute the safety-valve for all the pent-up passions and explosive or subversive tendencies of an advanced society, and which in the asylum and aliment they afford to the discontented or unhappy of other lands, are serving to hurry us on to the very pinnacle of earthly power.

As, therefore, we are great, wealthy, prosperous, and powerful, so are we, despite of transitory conflicts of interest, peaceful and secure in our political relations, because of land, more land, exuberance of land. The Anglo-Saxon must have room in space, and his own way in opinion. The colonists of Massachusetts-Bay had spread themselves over half the surface of the State, at a time, when their aggregate number did not exceed the present population of one of our smaller cities; and how little of dissent, either religious or political, they tolerated, we know well here in Salem. The people of the English Colonies felt crowded on the eastern slope of the Alleghanies, and, though most of the land was yet untrodden wilderness, they could not find space among them in which to suffer the

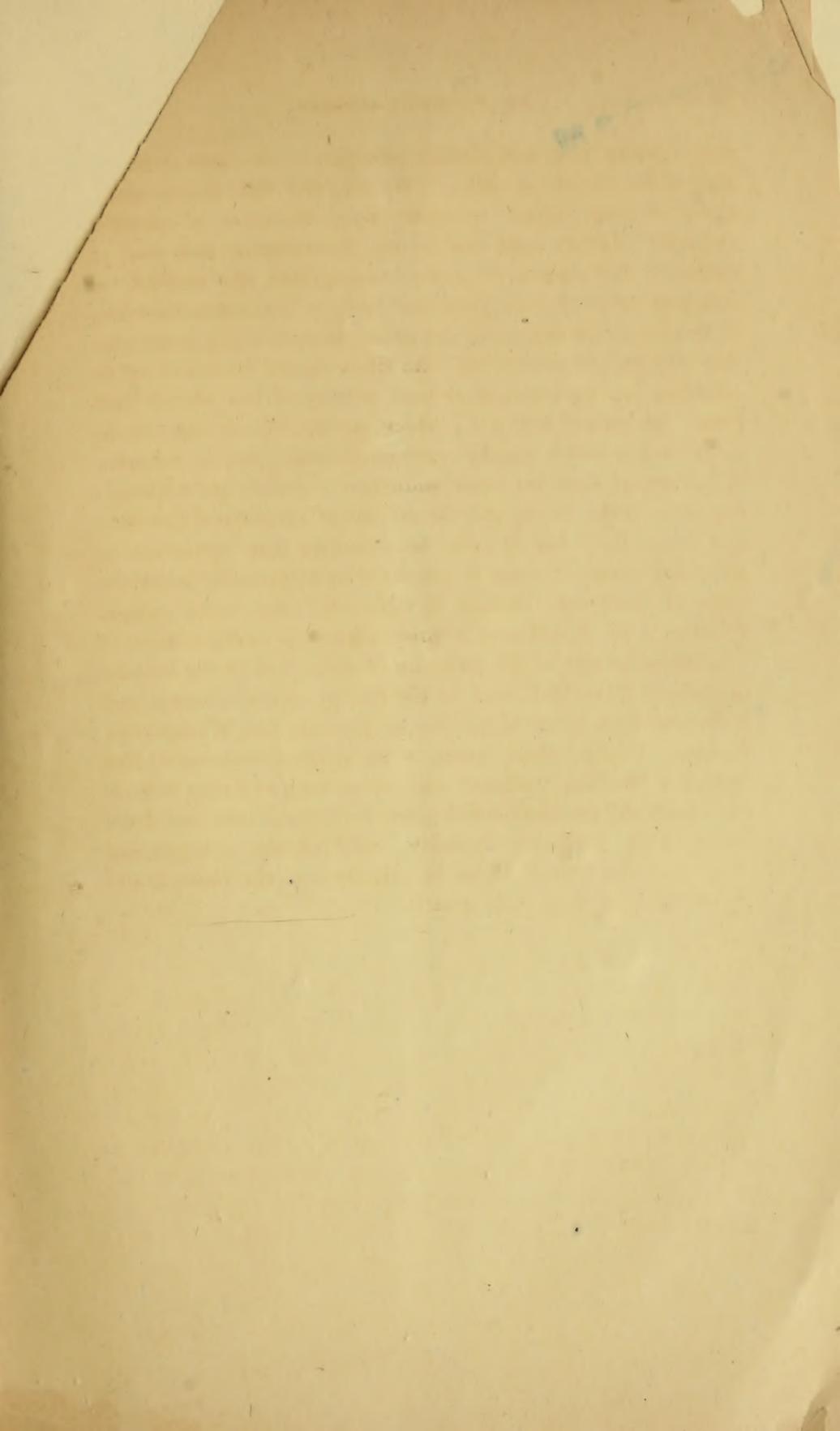
residence of a few broken bands of Indians. After the establishment of the Federal Union, they swarmed over to the western slope of the Alleghanies. They were not satisfied there, until they had obtained Louisiana, and occupied the entire Mississippi Valley. And still, with their strong instincts of expansion, but not of assimilation, they drove before them the surviving remnants of the Indians. There was more land yet ahead of them, and they pushed on to Texas, Oregon, New Mexico and California.

Where is all this to end? I will not undertake to foreknow; but I see that the continual occupation of new lands, and successive acquisitions of territory, are the manifestations and the effect of the particular genius and personal character of the people of the United States. We satisfy in this the inborn exigencies of our nature, just as when we eat or drink. Give scope for the free action of our characteristic national qualities of activity, expansibility, individualism, love of land,—and all is well: check it, stop it, shut it up, force it back on itself, and you will discover that the letter of a written Constitution is quite secondary in its agency on the integrity and peace of the American Union.

Gentlemen, we of the State of Massachusetts, unlike the United States as a whole, have reached that point in our social career, where agriculture is overtaken, and perhaps passed, by manufacture and commerce. That is one of the critical periods in the life of a community. Far be it from me to say any thing, here or elsewhere, to discourage the ardor of our advancement in mechanic art, in manufacture, or in commerce. Nor, on the other hand, do these need to be stimulated by applause; for their weak side is a tendency to hurtful excess of production by means of machinery and of credit. But the interests of the agriculture of Massachusetts do need to be stimulated by public exhortation.

Let those of us, then, who feel stifled in the air of over-full cities, to whom the fresh breezes of the country, its green fields, its fair hills and bright streams, its woods and its lakes, and its ripened promise of the harvest, are never-ceasingly

dear,—let us turn with fonder affection to all there is left to man of the charms of Eden. We may fail thus to get something of city graces: we shall keep the more of country strength. Let us hold fast to the sheet-anchor and stay of nations. Let science be applied to augment the productiveness and value of the agricultural lands of the Commonwealth, as its population increases, and other interests attain great relative weight: to which end, the State should be called on to establish an Agricultural School worthy of her wealth and fame. If our soil will not produce, nor the climate ripen, those great staples which supply our foreign trade, cotton, tobacco, sugar, wheat, rice, yet other products of the earth are not wanting here, as the means and the subject of agricultural industry and prosperity. Let it never be forgotten that agriculture is the conservative element in our social system, under whatever name of party that interest may for the time being appear. Finally, if we should ever incline to doubt as to the relation of agriculture to life, to the character of men, and to the destiny of nations, let us look back on the history of our country, and remember how many of its greatest generals, like Washington, Jackson, Taylor,—how many of its greatest statesmen, like Jefferson, Madison, Calhoun,—to say nothing of living men,—have been the production and growth of rural life, and have clung, with invincible tenacity, amid all the changes and chances of the loftiest flights of greatness, to the pursuits and the interests of their mother-earth.



COMPTON SM

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 002 744 131 2

